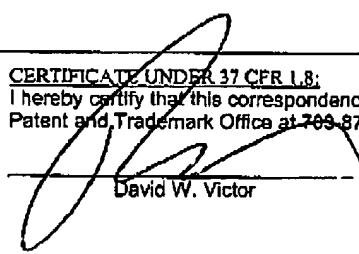


**COPY**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: D.A. Farias et al. Examiner: Gerald J. O'Connor  
Serial No.: 09/712,584 Group Art Unit: 3627  
Filed: November 14, 2000 Docket No.: SJO919990173  
TITLE: REPLENISHMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:**  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to Gerald J. O'Connor of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at 703-372-9306 on December 26, 2003.

  
David W. Victor12/26/03  
DateRESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This amendment is submitted in response to the final office action dated September 29, 2003 ("Final Office Action") entered in response to a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). On November 24, 2003, the Examiner and attorney for Applicants held a phone interview discussing the claims. Although no agreement was reached, Applicants and the Examiner discussed certain amendments to the claims to further distinguish over the cited art. Applicants amend the claims as discussed during the phone interview. Applicants request that the Examiner enter this amendment and allow the claims for the reasons discussed herein.

Pages 6-32 (of 32)  
are a duplicate of page # 16, now entered.  
as requested by Mr. Paper.  
# 19.